

T-34

Chaffinch House

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 04-05-2004

Chaffinch House
132 South Harrison Street
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-34
C1894

Characteristic of the large Victorian houses of Easton, the Chaffinch house is frame with a corner tower. The exterior is covered with a skin of ornamental shingles and wooden patterns and the roof line is composed of a series of irregularly placed gables. Interior volumes are clearly visible.

RACERASE BOARD
SOUTHWORTH CO. U.S.A.
25% COTTON FIBER

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

T 34

2100345604

Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Chaffinch House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

132 South Harrison Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Warren A. and Margaret S. Lundy

Telephone #: 301-745-5561

STREET & NUMBER

Box 457

CITY, TOWN

Neavitt

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21652

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Town of Easton Survey by Paul Brinkman

DATE

August 20, 1967

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This structure stands on the north east corner of Harrison Street and Brookletts Avenue. Its entrance is in the west facade; however, this is a corner building which is frontal to both major streets.

The main block is approximately square, two-and-a-half stories in height with a hipped roof. A round tower, taller than the main house and covered by an octagonal roof, is found at the street corner. Pedimented gables face both streets; each is edged with deeply molded cornices and have small, three-part windows set below the pedimented gable which is covered with wooden shingles in an imbricated pattern. On the west, Harrison Street side, the window is an oriel, on the south Brooklets side a recessed window. A band of wooden ornament, textured in a pattern of interlocking curves, runs around these two facades, including both small three-sided windows and surrounding the tower - where it is compressed. Beneath the band is a pent eave, also covered with imbricated shingles and used on both major facades.

A deep porch, one story in height runs across the north side and front of the building. The main entrance is in the north corner bay of the west elevation. A wide flight of steps and a pedimented gable with applied sunburst design, marks the entrance on the porch. A pavillion is used to emphasize the entrance; it projects slightly and is topped with a pedimented gable infilled with applied decoration. The opening is recessed with walls that curve inward as if the exterior skin of the building had been punctured by the opening. The door itself is golden oak with paneling in the lower half and thirty-five lights of clear glass with beveled edges above. Other porch details include heavy turned posts and a railing with a geometric pattern of wooden slats. To the east is a two-story ell which runs along Brookletts Avenue. Sheltered with a gable roof this portion is less ornamental than the front. At the east end is a two-story porch with geometric railings.

Window openings are positioned to reflect interior needs. Generally, they are used in pairs in the flat walls and threes in bay and oriel windows and in the tower. One over one sashes predominate, set in frames trimmed with wide flat moldings. On the first floor front tall windows which reach the floor light the major room. Also in this facade is a whimsical keyhole window on the second floor, the element which gives the building its name. There is an oculus window in the western gable.

In plan, the main portion is divided into four quarters, the stair and entrance hall occupying the northwest quadrant and rooms in the other three. A narrow central hall runs from west to east, connecting with the rear ell and its service stair. Rooms are enriched with the projecting bays and tower. Fireplaces are located in the party walls between major rooms.

Novelty siding covers the structure except where decorative shingles or wooden applique is used. The roof of the tower retains its original wooden shingles. The roof is covered with asphalt replacement shingles.

The structure is well-maintained although presently in need of painting. It has been converted into apartments. Rooms are spacious in feeling, and most being corner rooms with many windows.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

7-34

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Late Nineteenth Century BUILDER/ARCHITECT WILLIAM P. CHAFFINCH
c1894

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is basically a two-and-a-half story square building with a rear ell. Plastic elements - projecting windows and gables and a tower -- are used to express interior functions and the ceremonial idea of entry. Horizontal bands of texture - weatherboarding and shingles - as well as the porch are used to unify the composition. A dominant architectural idea in the late nineteenth century was that of volumetric expression. The interior of buildings were seen as a composition of volumes, not a series of rooms. And the exterior wall were conceived more as "skins" covering these volumes than as structural elements carrying the roof and floors. Thus in this building we can clearly see the interior volumes and the exterior seems to be very thin - more texture than structure - enclosing the volumes and holding them together.

Victorians loved variety, irregularity, a picturesque quality in their architecture; structures like this building show that the architecture at its best was fanciful, it was also deliberate. Its exuberance reflects the energy, inventiveness, and skill of its builder and designer.

L117/F20

Will Record
 L24/F406
 L257/F57
 L430/F302
 L471/F29

This house was built by William P. Chaffinch sometime after 1894 when he bought lots 26 and 27 from John C. Earle, a part of Earle's sub-division. At that time, it extended east on Brookletts Avenue 120 feet and 126½ feet on Harrison Street. The property was devised to Mr. Chaffinch's daughter, Louise Chaffinch Warburton by his will, in 1935. She sold the house and lot in 1943 to Mabel Comegys. From Mrs. Comegys estate it was bought by Natalie Waldman in 1968 and from her it passed to the present owners, Warren and Margaret Lundy in 1973.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.
Will Records, Talbot County Court House.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE None COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

September 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,

301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

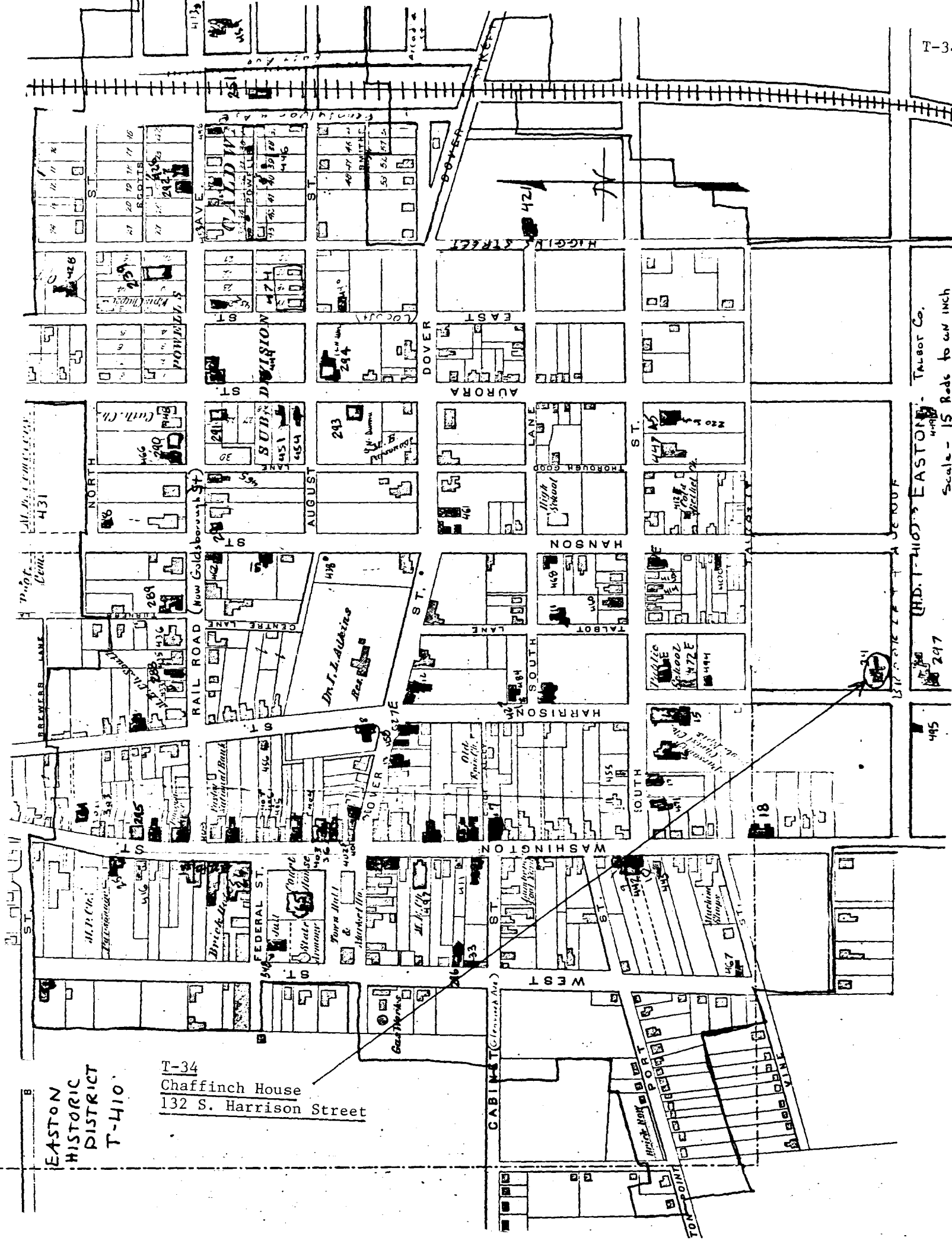
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

<p>1. STATE Maryland T-34 COUNTY Talbot TOWN Easton VICINITY STREET NO. Harrison & Brookletts Ave.</p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Clapboard NO. OF STORIES 3 1/2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY</p> <p>2. NAME DATE OR PERIOD c. 1890 STYLE Victorian ARCHITECT BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This is a characteristic large mansion of the Victorian period. At least half a dozen of them exist in Easton, but this one is definitely the most elaborate and intricate. The house is approximately 4 bays square with many additions at the rear. From the walls protrude oriels, bays, gables and an octagonal tower with a tall peaked roof. The roof line is composed of a series of irregularly placed gables. All of the windows of the house are irregular in size and placement. The clapboard walls are broken up by wooden belt courses and by insets of decorative fishscale shingles. All around the first floor and along parts of the second runs an elaborate verandah with a gabled roof and a pierced rail of a very bold design.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This house is a wonderful and fanciful example of Victorian exuberance and ingenuity. It stands as a monument to an inventive and eclectic age.</p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior excellent</p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paul A. Brinkman</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DATE OF RECORD 29/8/1967</p>



EASTON
HISTORIC
DISTRICT
T-410

T-34
Chaffinch House
132 S. Harrison Street



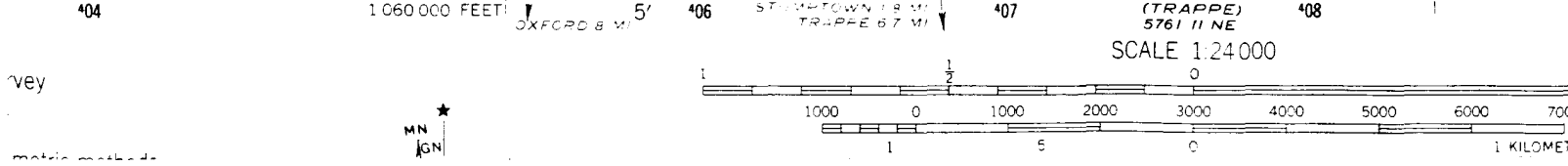
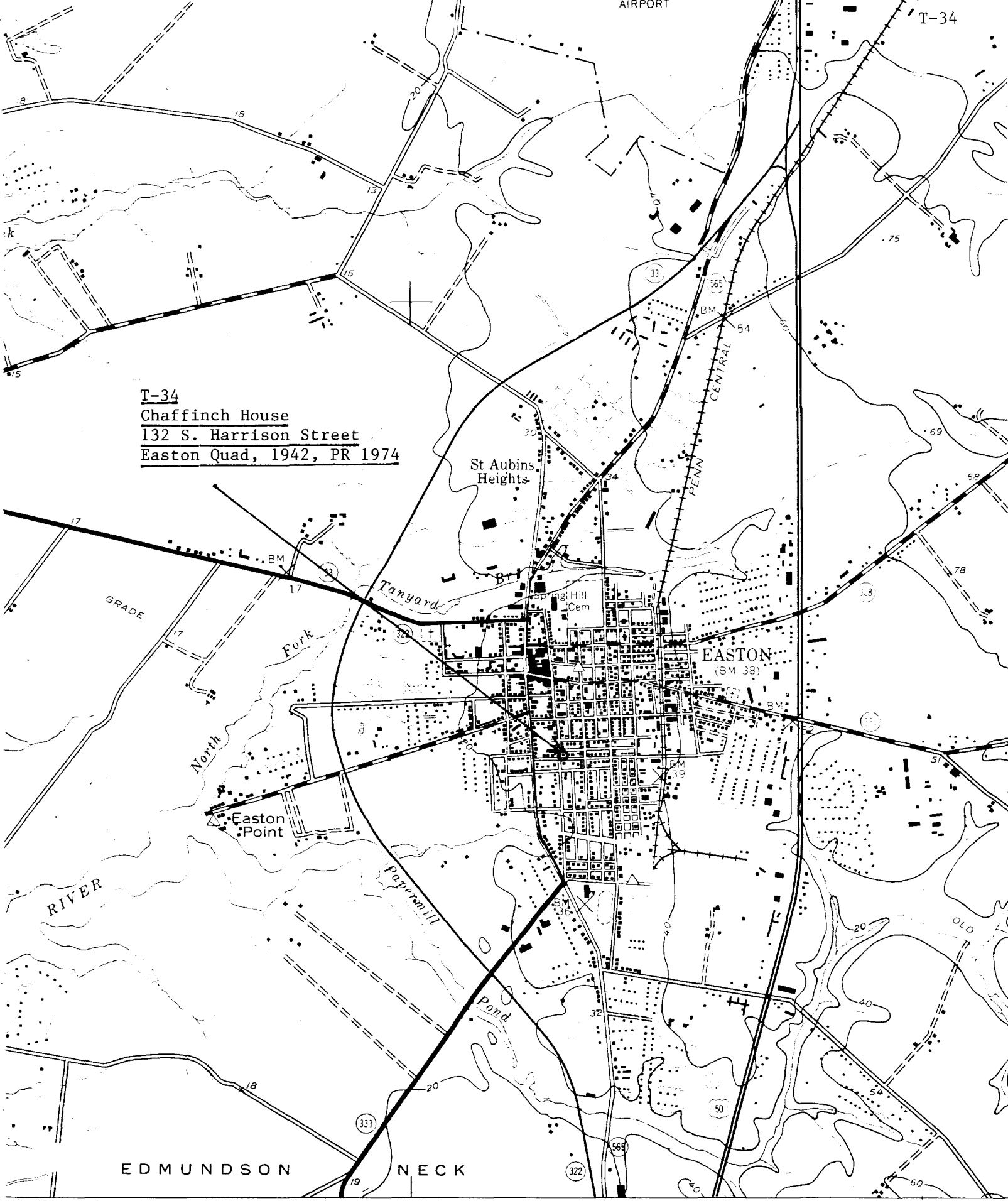
T-34

Talbot Co.
Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

U.S. T-410'S EASTON

495
297

T-34
Chaffinch House
132 S. Harrison Street
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974





VICTORIAN HOUSE WITH TOWER CHAFFINCH HOUSE T-34

DAG 67

111



CL

T-24

132 S. HARRISON

T-34

EASTON, MO. 8/76

FRONT, WEST FACADE

ML FRITZ

Chlorine House



(3)

~~43%~~

K_T-34

Chaffinch House

132 S. Harrison Street
Easton

Southwest Facade

